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# **Farm Broadcasters Letter**

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington, D.C. 20250 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2570

August 7, 1992

**SOYBEAN ACRES UP** -- The latest acreage report on soybean plantings totals 59 million acres, 1.6 million more than planting intentions indicated earlier this year. Largest acreage increase was in Illinois. 1992 crop forecast is 1.9 billion bushels. Exports this season should hit 680 million bushels, helped by a short crop last year in Brazil. The 1992-93 export forecast is 675 million bushels. U.S. soybean prices are expected to average between \$5.00 and \$6.20 a bushel next year. Current season average price is expected to be \$5.60 a bushel. Contact: Scott Sanford (202) 219-0840.

**AQUACULTURE DIRECTORY AVAILABLE** -- A directory of 139 U.S. and Puerto Rican institutions involved in aquaculture research is now available from USDA's Aquaculture Information Center at the National Agricultural Library. The "Directory of Research Institutions in Aquaculture" lists addresses of the institutions and the research they are conducting. Copies are available by sending a request with a self-addressed mailing label to: Aquaculture Information Center, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, Md. 20705-2351. Contact: Brian Norris (301) 472-2966.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES INCREASED** -- The number of inspections and legal actions taken by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to protect animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act has increased. The average number of inspections of all regulated facilities increased 16% last year, says Dr. Joan Arnoldi, deputy administrator of APHIS' regulatory enforcement and animal care program. \$213,350 in fines were assessed, a 187 percent increase from last year. License suspensions or revocations increased 176 percent. Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898.

**ENHANCING FORAGE PRODUCTION** -- Forage production in the U.S. has an estimated value of \$10 billion annually. An improvement of only 10 percent in just one type of forage, alfalfa, could boost overall value substantially. Agricultural engineer Richard Koegel, at the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, Wisc., has devised a way to improve digestibility after the crop is harvested. A machine he has designed shreds alfalfa hay for fast drying and mashes it into a forage mat. Nutrient absorption is increased. Contact: Richard G. Koegel (608) 264-5149.

**NO CHANGE IN WHEAT ARP** -- There will be no adjustment in the zero percent acreage reduction factor for the 1993 price support and production adjustment program for wheat that was announced May 29. Adjustments can be made if the supply of wheat has changed significantly. "This announcement reaffirms our commitment to exports and world markets," says Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman. "We continue to believe the zero percent level is in the best interests of producers, consumers and all U.S. taxpayers." Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8205.

**DON'T BAG IT** -- Research and practical experience have shown that returning clippings to a lawn can promote a healthier turf. Dr. Tom Koske, Extension Service horticulturist with the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center, says grass clippings have lawn food value. Returning the clippings to the lawn can help cut one-third from a normal fertilizing schedule. **Contact: Thomas J. Koske (504) 388-2222.**

**HIGH HOPES FOR AN IMPORT** -- USDA scientists are releasing a weevil from Greece that attacks the yellow starthistle, a thorny weed that poisons horses, lowers the value of pasture, and spears hikers. The brown quarter-inch weevil, named *Larinus curtus*, eats the seeds in the starthistle's flowerhead. Tests have shown that it lays eggs only in yellow starthistle. The weed has no native enemies in this country, and has spread to more than 9 million acres in 23 states. **Contact: Charles E. Turner (510) 559-5975.**

**SCRAPIE CONTROL PROGRAM** -- A voluntary flock certification program to control scrapie in sheep and goats will become effective October 2, 1992. The 5-year certification plan includes periodic inspections, health recordkeeping, and identification marks. Billy Johnson, acting deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, says the voluntary participation of producers and veterinarians is essential to control the disease. **Contact: Alan Zagier (301) 436-7255.**

**SMALL EQUALS BIG** -- Small trees that yield as much fruit as large trees have been bred by scientists with USDA's Agriculture Research Service. The nectarine and peach trees require less pruning, are easier to harvest, and can be planted in higher densities, reducing land and operating costs. **Contact: Ralph Scorza (304) 725-3451.**

**NEW USE OF A BY-PRODUCT** -- A compound in fish oil that nutrition research suggests could reduce the risk of heart disease and atherosclerosis can now be produced from fungi grown on whey. Previously the only known source of the compound was fish oil. Scientists with USDA's Agriculture Research Service produced the compound by feeding whey, a by-product of cheesemaking, to fungi. The procedure creates a potential new use for whey. **Contact: Dennis J. O'Brien (215) 233-6601.**

**FAT DOWN, FIBER UP** -- The average American consumes about 37 percent of calories from fat and only about 11 grams of fiber each day. USDA Dietary Guidelines recommend lowering fat to less than 30 percent of calories, and suggest fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day. "A diet lower in fat and higher in fiber has been shown to decrease risk for heart disease and adult-onset diabetes," says Dr. Beth Reames, Extension Service nutritionist with the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center. To reduce fat in the diet Reames suggests decreasing the use of rich sauces, salad dressings and nuts. To increase fiber in the diet eat more whole grains, fruits and vegetables. **Contact: Beth Reames (504) 388-4141).**

*R-TV Fax: (202) 690-2165  
Ag NewsFAX (202) 690-3944*

## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1835** -- On this edition Gary Crawford reports on the rise and fall of the cigar. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

**CONSUMER TIME # 1317** -- Loaning experts to Russia; Africanized bee "hot spots"; the pizza controversy is done; U.S. red meat consumption; houseplants on vacation. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

**AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1826** -- USDA News Highlights; pork to the former USSR?; 1993 feed grain comments; the Africanized bee and beekeeping; California's vineyards under attack. (Weekly reel of news features.)

**NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1532** -- "Value Added" agriculture; new products from ag surplus; screening for resistance; ask the plants; desert survival still. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Fri., Aug. 14, livestock outlook, milk production; Tues., Aug. 18, crop/weather update, farm labor, cranberry production; Wed., Aug. 19, mushroom production, fruit/tree nut outlook; Thurs., Aug. 20, U.S. ag outlook, Pacific rim outlook, U.S. farm trade update, catfish production; Fri., Aug. 21, cattle on feed, wheat outlook, livestock and poultry update. (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.)

**DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

**FEATURES** -- DeBoria Janifer reports on the dairy outlook; Patrick O'Leary takes a look at agricultural facts; Will Pemble reports in improving photosynthesis; Dave Luciani reports on manure-free bedding for cows.

**ACTUALITIES** -- USDA chief meteorologist Norton Strommen on weather and crops; USDA economist Leland Southard on livestock and poultry; USDA economist Roger Hoskin on oil crops.

**UPCOMING FEATURES** -- DeBoria Janifer takes a look at urban gardening; Patrick O'Leary reports on conservation farming; Lynn Wyvill reports on protecting plants from ultraviolet-B rays.

**EVERY OTHER WEEK** -- Agriculture Update, five minutes of USDA farm program information in "news desk" format with B-roll.

*Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT, Saturdays from 10 - 10:30 a.m., EDT, and Mondays from 8 - 8:30 a.m., EDT.*



## OFFMIKE

**FORWARD PRICING...**of wheat last winter has paid off for producers in Arkansas, says **Stewart Doan** (ARN Agriculture, Little Rock, Ark.). Prices were high, and the excellent crop this year has helped wheat farmers recover from reduced production last year. Extension agents say they expect increased wheat acreage will be planted this Fall.

**LOTS OF FEED...**and not enough cattle is prompting a rebuilding of herds, says **Gary Hodgson** (Livestock News Network, Brush, Colorado.). Beef cattle herds are about 8% larger than at this time last year. Gary says the network totals 45 stations, recently adding KCSR, Chadron, Neb., and KQSW, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

**LATE PLANTING...**and slow development has put the corn crop at risk to damage from an early frost, says **Eddie Gale** (WGIL/WAAG, Galesburg, Ill.). Normal frost arrives in late October in Eddie's area. Producers tell him they're planning to get the crop in early.

### *Farm Broadcasters Letter*



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Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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**INTERVIEWING...**100 4-H participants at the Freeborn County Fair in early August will keep **Al Carstens** (KATE, Albert Lea, Minn.) busy. Al says another of the interesting features at the fair this year will be old farm equipment, much of it steam powered.

**A VIDEOTAPE...**written and voiced by **Max Armstrong** (WGN/Tribune Network, Chicago, Ill.) was featured at the recent annual meeting in Denver, Colorado of U.S. Feeds Grains Council. Max says it reviewed the Council's three decades of market promotion.

**NEW VOICE...**at WKFI, Wilmington, Ohio is **Chip Nelson**, a former agriculture teacher in Oak Hill, Ohio. Chip replaces **Dave Borst** who has left the station. Chip says station coverage of the county fair season is going to keep them from getting much sleep for the next six weeks.

  
**VIC POWELL**

Chief, Radio and TV Division